

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Six months later, San Bernardino is still #SBStrong

SB Strong logo continues to inspire residents, aid victims

By Beau Yarbrough, The Sun

Wednesday, June 1, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> It started six months ago, in response to the killing of 14 people in the [terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center](#), in an attempt to wrest something good from the ashes of Dec. 2.

"It took me, at most, 20 minutes," said Juan Garcia-Ruiz, a [graphic designer who was at home sick](#) in San Bernardino when Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik attacked the IRC. "I did it almost instinctively, intuitively."

Inspired by the city's [Arrowhead landmark](#), Garcia put the message "SB Strong 12.02.15" inside an arrowhead. He then shared the new SB Strong logo with the [I Love San Bernardino Facebook group](#).

"I saw it pop up on (Facebook) and thought, 'wow, I love that,'" said Darren Espiritu, a lifelong resident of the city and a [Parks and Recreation commissioner for the city's Fourth Ward](#).

For him, SB Strong means more than just showing resilience after the December terrorist attack: It means standing strong in the face of the [many challenges the city has faced in recent years](#).

"Our city was hurting, has been hurting for years. We're struggling, we're limited with our budget," Espiritu said. "I think the terrorist attack, although it was horrific, it was like a rallying cry for the city to come together."

The spirit embodied by the logo lives on, as a point of pride in the community or as a means of healing.

Diane Hernandez, a consumer services coordinator at the Inland Regional Center and San Bernardino resident, is one of a group of IRC employees who have taken it on themselves to clean up the [makeshift memorial](#) that's sprung up near the complex.

"IRC employees have had a rough time and being on the site daily is more difficult than you can imagine," Hernandez wrote in an email. "My office overlooks the conference center and daily I am reminded of the events of that day and the people who so brutally lost their lives."

Hernandez said that she's in counseling and on medication for post-traumatic stress disorder. On Dec. 2, she was unable to reach her son during the attack and called her mother, asking her to say goodbye to her son on her behalf if she died.

"I think about the victims every day and the helplessness I felt, not being able to do anything but hide

that day," Hernandez wrote. "Cleaning the site, as some of us have, is the tiniest thing we could do."

The logo was popular from the beginning, but really took off when it was featured in the [Dec. 3 vigil at San Manuel Stadium](#). The [Inland Empire 66ers](#), the minor league baseball team that plays in the stadium, immediately began receiving requests to buy the logo on a T-shirt.

With Garcia-Ruiz's blessing, the [66ers began selling the shirts](#), with the proceeds benefiting the [San Bernardino United Relief Fund](#). And the shirts sold, and sold, and sold.

"We thought we could raise a few thousand dollars; two or three thousand dollars would be great," said [Joe Hudson](#), general manager of the Inland Empire 66ers. "We didn't expect that level of support. I think we shipped T-shirts to every state."

December is normally a quiet time for baseball teams. But not this past year.

"It took over our front office staff for kind of a week and a half," Hudson said.

But there were no complaints.

"Everyone understood that, at the moment, this was bigger than our own stuff," Hudson said.

In April, the 66ers declared their second home game of the 2016 season "[SB Strong Night](#)," featuring players in jerseys modeled on Garcia-Ruiz's logo and raising more money for the victims and the San Bernardino Police Foundation.

"I would think we sold between \$30,000 and \$40,000 worth of that merchandise," Hudson said. "Our total donation to the United Way ended up being around \$46,000," including ticket revenue and merchandise.

Garcia-Ruiz is happy to see his flash of inspiration continue to inspire in the six months since the attack.

"I figured people gravitated to it, but I figured that three months on, no one would still be using it," he said.

But almost on a daily basis, his friends send Garcia-Ruiz text messages, telling him other ways in which the logo has been used. Since Dec. 2, it's appeared on shirts, hats, bumper stickers, lanyard clips, [lapel pins](#), vinyl clings and more.

Espiritu compares the omnipresence of the SB Strong logo to American flags popping up everywhere after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"It brought unity to our city. We need it very badly," he said. "I'm proud of the city. ... My intent is to stay here, raise my family. I want to keep that going. SB Strong is symbolic."

Garcia-Ruiz has trademarked the logo to keep anyone from turning it into big business. He wants to make sure the proceeds from the logo's use benefit the families of victims. When he's allowed others to use it, as the Inland Empire 66ers have, it's to benefit the families.

Espiritu hopes to see the SB Strong arrowhead logo used for years to come.

"I think the SB Strong logo should be part of all future events in the city, keep it going," he said. "I don't want to see that flame go out."

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Checks to be sent soon from United Way's \$2.5 million Dec. 2 fund

Checks to be sent soon from United Way's \$2.5 million Dec. 2 fund

By Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

SAN BERNARDINO >> The committee in charge of distributing almost \$2.5 million in donations to those affected by the Dec. 2 terrorist attack held its final meeting Wednesday and will send out checks as soon as releases of liability are completed, according to Doug Rowand, president and CEO of Arrowhead United Way.

The United Way collected the funds but will not take any portion of the donations, Rowand said. The money will instead be divided based on a formula agreed to by each of 15 committee members:

- 80 percent for the families of the 14 deceased victims
- 15.5 percent for those hospitalized in the attack
- 4.5 percent for those present during the shooting

Any money received in the future will be divided the same way, he said. Donations may be made at app.mobilecause.com/vf/SBUnited

“We’re still accepting funds,” Rowand said. “Just yesterday a women’s group called and said they would give \$50.”

An audit of the fund is planned to begin shortly after the new fiscal year begins July 1, and should be completed within a few months, Rowand said Wednesday.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160601/checks-to-be-sent-soon-from-united-ways-25-million-dec-2-fund>

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SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTINGS: Three more claims filed, totaling \$10.1 million

By RYAN HAGEN

2016-06-01 19:26:11



San Bernardino County has received three more claims seeking money on behalf of those affected by the terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center, bringing the number of claims to 14 a day before the six-month deadline to file.

The three claims, which total more than \$10.1 million, were filed by the family of one of the slain, a man who survived the shooting and an insurance company that covers some IRC employees.

The claims were stamped as received by the county May 27 and made public Wednesday. The deadline for filing claims with the county is Thursday — the six-month anniversary of the attack. If a claim is rejected by a city or county, the claimant then has six months to file a lawsuit. Several early Dec. 2-related claims already have been rejected.

Mark Sandefur seeks more than \$5.5 million in damages related to the loss of Daniel Kaufman, the nephew he raised since childhood.

Kevin Ortiz, who was shot multiple times, said he continues to suffer severe physical, mental and emotional injuries, and seeks in excess of

\$150,000.

And Republic Indemnity Company of California, which provided workers' compensation insurance for the Inland Regional Center, seeks more than \$4.5 million. The company said it has already spent more than \$23,000 in connection with workers' compensation claims made by five IRC employees and expects additional expenses.

County spokesman David Wert responded with the same statement he has made when other claims were filed: "The county will carefully consider each claim and act in the best interests of everyone involved."

Republic Indemnity alleges that San Bernardino County was negligent in not providing adequate security at the Dec. 2 gathering at which county health inspector Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, 29, fatally shot 14 people and wounded 22 others in what the FBI declared the deadliest terrorist act on U.S. soil since 9/11.

"Claimant is further informed and believes that the County of San Bernardino knew, or should have known, that its employee, Syed Rizwan Farook, had engaged in adversarial and argumentative conduct with his co-employees, and as such, posed a reasonably foreseeable danger to those persons in close proximity to the holiday party," the claim states.

The company further alleges that the county negligently hired and trained Farook, and that Farook's violent intentions should have been apparent once the party began.

"The County of San Bernardino failed to perform an adequate background check of Syed Rizwan Farook and further failed to intervene to protect persons in their employ, as well as persons in close proximity to where this

holiday party took place once it was determined that Syed Rizwan Farook had become a disgruntled, unhappy, and violent employee as said holiday party progressed," the company alleges in a two-page attachment to the claim form.

Ortiz and Sandefur each wrote a few sentences.

"The county breached its duty to provide a safe work environment for its employees and visitors, in all aspects," Sandefur's claim says in part. "The county also breached its duty to hire and retain workers who, working under the color of authority of the county, are not a danger to others."

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Vogue Magazine
June 2, 2016

My Father Was Killed in the San Bernardino Shooting

by TINA MEINS

My mom, Trenna, and my dad, Damian, had a lot in common. They were both born into poor families, and after being taught the value of hard work, saved enough to put themselves through Notre Dame High School, a private Catholic school in Riverside, California. They became high school sweethearts and worked even harder to put themselves through college and then graduate school, each becoming the first in their families to graduate. They married in 1979. As Dad liked to say, “In ’79, I made her mine.”

I was born in 1982, and the family was complete when my sister, Tawnya, came along in 1987. Our family was small but very close. Not only did we love each other, we all genuinely/liked one another. In our house, there was laughter all the time. Dad was hilarious—he would make jokes or use silly voices, wiggle his eyebrows and make funny faces. He was always happy to spend time with us, whether it was helping us with our homework, teaching us how to ride our bikes, coaching our soccer teams, or later, just going for long walks. He always said he loved spending time with “my girls.”

When we were younger, we’d take big road trips to visit family in other states. As we got older, our appetite for adventure increased, so my dad, Tawnya, and I traveled the world. During our trips, we’d talk about religion, politics, current events, books, and movies. All of us felt free to challenge one another when we disagreed, pressing each other to consider different viewpoints. These special times truly put in action our family motto, “*amplecti possibilitate*,” which, roughly translated, means “embrace the possibility.”

My parents always went out of their way to help others. This meant volunteering at local schools and the Special Olympics, mowing a neighbor’s lawn, helping to paint a friend’s or family member’s house—and choosing careers in which they could be of service to others. My mom was an educator, and my dad worked for Riverside County’s Environmental Health Department. He was passionate about what he did, though he ended up retiring to take care of his ailing mother, until she passed away. Dad would later re-enter the workforce as a teacher, at the same school where my sister worked. He liked dressing up as Abraham Lincoln at Halloween and Santa Claus at Christmas. He painted murals at the school, and in the last one he did, he drew fish that all the kids could paint and personalize with their names. Though he loved this period, in September 2015, he decided to return to environmental health, this time accepting a position with San Bernardino County.

On December 2, 2015, my dad was standing by the Christmas tree at work when a coworker and his wife, who had pledged allegiance to the terrorist group ISIS, burst through the doors, spraying bullets from semiautomatic rifles. My dad was killed, along with 13 of his coworkers. In those mere seconds, my life was irrevocably changed. Our perfect father, and my mother's loving husband of 36 years, was gone.

What made this horrific situation even more difficult to grasp was that, the Saturday before the shooting, my dad, mom, and I had one of our discussions: We talked about the unconscionable high rates of gun violence in our country, about workplace violence, mass shootings, and even terrorism. It was surreal that one single event combined all three and took my father's life.

After the first couple of weeks, I was mostly numb. My brain still worked—I could recount facts—but my emotions completely shut down. Over time, some of the **numbness has worn off, and instead of getting easier, things are getting harder. I'm still** in disbelief much of the time, and I think about my dad every single day. I lost my father, my best friend, in a horrific and brutal way that seems to defy all reason.

He deserved so much better. For now, every memory, no matter how wonderful, makes me sad, because I still cannot understand why our time was cut so short. I am also angry that it was so easy for terrorists to get their hands on weapons. I am confused by those who choose to focus on the fact that it was an act of terrorism, while ignoring the means by which they carried out the act.

On an average day, 91 people are killed by gun violence in America. People on our terror watch list are prohibited from boarding airplanes, yet they still can purchase firearms. I **can't wrap my mind around why we find any of this acceptable. I don't know how best to** combat homegrown and lone-wolf terrorists before they strike. But I do know that we need to make it harder for people with evil intentions to carry out evil acts. The voices of reason and moderation, the ones calling for peace and sensible action, must be heard.

When my dad decided to accept the position at San Bernardino County Environmental Health, he let all the children at his school know he would be leaving. The kids made him pictures and goodbye cards. More than one child wrote to my dad that he was their "best friend," and that he was going to be missed. They adored him, just as I did. I hope that by sharing his story, I may save others the heartbreak I will always bear.

Gun Safety is a series about gun violence in America, with a new essay appearing each day until National Gun Violence Awareness Day, on June 2. To learn more about what you can do to prevent gun violence, and to participate in the Wear Orange campaign, go to WearOrange.org.

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6 Months After Attack, San Bernardino Is More Worried About Everyday Gun Violence Than Terrorism

Following a spike in murders, the city looks to new tools to make itself safer.

⌚ 06/01/2016 05:04 pm ET

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Daniel Marans

Reporter, Huffington Post



DAVID MCNEW/GETTY IMAGES

People visit a memorial in San Bernardino, California, near the site of the Dec. 2, 2015, massacre. The city has experienced a spike in murders this year.

In November 2005, Linda Miers' 16-year-old daughter, Melanie, was killed in a drive-by shooting outside a party in her hometown of San Bernardino, California.

Nine years later, Melanie's 26-year-old sister, Michelle, was stabbed to death in the city, leaving behind two young children.

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HUFFPOST NEWSLETTERS

San Bernardino was shoved into the national spotlight on Dec. 2, 2015, when a terror attack in the city claimed 14 lives. But long before that mass shooting, the economically depressed city was ground zero for the country's gun violence epidemic.

Most Americans killed by guns aren't involved in mass shootings that dominate headlines — instead, they're victims of personal disputes, domestic violence incidents and gang wars.

San Bernardino has long had one of the [highest murder rates](#) in Southern California. Thanks to years of decline, the city remains well below its peak rate of the 1990s. But in recent months, the number of people killed in the city has once again [swung upward](#).

Now the city government is partnering with community groups to test innovative violence prevention tactics they hope will spare more residents the grief experienced by people like Linda Miers.

Searching For Solutions With Limited Resources

There have been 27 murders in San Bernardino so far this year, according to the city's police department. That number represents more than a two-fold increase from this point last year, when there had been 13 murders in the city.

There were 44 total murders in the city last year, including the 14 people killed in the December massacre.

That's a significant number of murders for a municipality with some 215,000 people. There were [352 murders](#) last year in New York City, which has more than 8 million residents — an admittedly low figure for a city of its size. If San Bernardino had the same murder rate, it would have seen fewer than nine murders in 2015.

"It is hard to say exactly why we are having a crime spike," said Lt. Richard Lawhead of the San Bernardino Police Department, noting that such things as inadequate housing options and high poverty rates may have contributed to the increase.

“

If [young people] are not involved in any productive and positive activities, they are just fooling around — and then the people influencing them are not as good.

—Sergio Luna, Inland Congregations United for Change

San Bernardino was once seen as a model middle-class city, winning the National Civic League's ["All-America City"](#) designation in 1976. The award, which celebrates ["civic innovation."](#) recognizes communities that demonstrate creative problem-solving.

But the town went into an [economic tailspin](#) after a large Air Force base and major industrial employers closed in the 1980s and 1990s. The low cost of living also attracted people escaping the high rents of Los Angeles and Orange County, straining the town's resources.

About one-third of San Bernardino residents live in poverty now, according to the Census Bureau. It's a rate rivaling that of Detroit and Cleveland, the country's most impoverished large cities.

San Bernardino also [went through bankruptcy in 2012](#), and the police force still hasn't recovered. The city's tight finances continue to limit spending on other services like parks and libraries.

Sergio Luna, a community organizer for Inland Congregations United for Change, a religious grassroots organization that focuses on poverty and other social challenges, said he drives his children to parks outside the city because the ones in San Bernardino are in such poor condition.

"There is nothing for young people to do in San Bernardino," Luna said. "If they are not involved in any productive and positive activities, they are just fooling around — and then the people influencing them are not as good."

“

Why do we have such a heavy emphasis on suppression and no resources to serve people's needs in a way that will prevent violence?

—Tom Dolan, Inland Congregations United for Change

To combat the recent crime spike, the city has collaborated with San Bernardino County on Operation Safe Streets, a crime-fighting task force that the [city police chief says](#) has already helped get guns off the streets.

But city officials and community leaders are most hopeful about a potential \$600,000 grant from California's Board of State and Community Corrections. The city has committed to matching a portion of the funds, either in cash or through in-kind contributions.

This funding, on which the state will announce a decision by July 1, would be used in part to implement Operation Ceasefire, [a violence prevention program](#) that originated in Boston in the mid-1990s.

The program marshals public and nonprofit resources to identify the small group of young men — disproportionately from communities of color — most at risk of shooting someone or being shot. Civic leaders, including law enforcement agents, then sit down with the high-risk young men and attempt to steer them away from crime. Typically they do this by reminding the young people of the alternatives available to them and offering help, but they also warn them that they have been identified and will be prosecuted if they do not abandon their risky behaviors.

Communities that have tried variations of this program — including the California towns of [Oakland](#), [Stockton](#) and [Richmond](#) — have seen marked reductions in gun violence.

The grant would also provide funds for an initiative to build trust between police officers and community members, said Chris Lopez, the chief of staff to San Bernardino's mayor. He said that would likely entail law enforcement agents having more face-to-face interactions with people in the city, including through the pre-existing “coffee with a cop” community meetings.

Inland Congregations United for Change worked with the city on the grant application and stands to receive a share of its funding, Lopez said. Though imperfect, the grant represents a positive step away from a largely punitive approach to policing, said Tom Dolan, the group's executive director.

“Why do we have such a heavy emphasis on suppression and no resources to serve people's needs in a way that will prevent violence?” he asked.

“The dominant narrative is that the problem with cities like San Bernardino is that it has the wrong kind of people,” he added. “The other narrative is that the people are what is needed to make the city, state and country better, but we need to invest in them.”

Dolan believes the city government and police department have been relatively slow to embrace crime-fighting techniques that focus on the root causes of violence.

He leads residents in bimonthly night walks around some of the city's toughest neighborhoods. These events are meant to show solidarity with those who have been affected by violence — and to protest inadequate government management of the situation.

“These night walks, without us saying it, put pressure on the police,” he said.





LINDA MIERS

Michelle, Melanie, Natalie and Linda Miers (L to R) celebrate Mother's Day in Big Bear, California, in 2005. Melanie was killed later that year.

Finding Comfort In Community

Linda Miers left San Bernardino shortly after her second daughter's death, seeking relief from painful memories and the city's social problems. She now raises her 14-year-old daughter, Natalie, in nearby Redlands.

Every day is a struggle to overcome the lingering grief from the loss of her first two daughters.

"You get to the point where you say, 'I just don't care,'" Miers said. "But then, I have another daughter, so I need to care."

Miers spends her weekdays working for the county, and finds solace in her Catholic faith and helping others. She is a eucharistic minister at San Bernardino's Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, where she also helps feed needy and homeless people once a month. Michelle's two children, who live with their father, have attended Sunday school at the church.

“

People who are alcoholics have Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Drug addicts have their meetings. You don't have enough meetings for parents of murdered children to attend.

—Linda Miers

Miers recently took over as head of the Inland Empire chapter of Parents of Murdered Children. She wants to help other people who have lost children to violence.

"People who are alcoholics have Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Drug addicts have their meetings," she said. "You don't have enough meetings for parents of murdered children to attend."

The first couple of meetings she held in San Bernardino were sparsely attended. Miers believes some parents are so wary of crime in the city that they would rather not even go to meetings there. She plans to attend a training workshop in Orange County next year that she hopes will help her build a stronger local chapter for the organization.

Miers, who used to collaborate regularly with Dolan, is supportive of the idea of Operation Ceasefire. But she's taking a break from the big-picture, anti-violence policy work. Work, family and community leadership keep her active enough.

Miers isn't sure what, if anything, the next president would be able to do to help communities like hers. She has little faith that stricter gun laws, for instance, will make a meaningful difference, arguing that criminals who want guns will still find a way to get them.

"They could fund more money for police officers to walk streets and drive around the neighborhoods," Miers offered. "In San Bernardino, [foot patrols] can be dangerous."

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San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Terrorist's insurance payout must go to victims, not his mother

By The Editorial Board, San Bernardino County Sun

Wednesday, June 1, 2016



Six months after the horrible, deadly terrorist attack in San Bernardino, some resultant financial issues have to be dealt with. Two public officials got it right on Tuesday.

State Sen. Connie Leyva, D-Chino, watched her legislation to make the city and county financially whole clear the Senate unanimously.

And U.S. Atty. Eileen Decker's federal prosecutors filed a court action to seize \$275,000 payouts from life insurance policies taken out by one of the terrorists in the years before

the Dec. 2 attack that claimed 14 lives and wounded another 22.

"Terrorists must not be permitted to provide for their designated beneficiaries through their crimes," Decker said in a statement issued from her Los Angeles office.

That's exactly right. It would be obscene to let that happen.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says the insurance money should go to the victims instead of to the perpetrator's mother — the beneficiary named on two insurance policies he obtained in 2012 and 2013 through his employment with San Bernardino County, where he was a health inspector.

According to investigators, before he took out the policies he and a friend already had been plotting two terror attacks that never took place. No doubt he foresaw the likelihood of his death in an attack, and wanted to leave a monetary legacy behind.

But those insurance benefits "were derived from a federal crime against the United States, citizens of residents of the United States, or their property, rendering them subject to forfeiture," the government wrote in its filing.

That's the legal reasoning. There's also the fact that relatives don't get insurance payouts when a policyholder commits suicide — and the Dec. 2 attack was essentially an act of suicide as well as homicide.

In any case, there's no way the mother of the deluded fool who carried out the attack should profit from his cowardly, murderous rampage.

Leyva's Senate Bill 1385, sponsored by San Bernardino County, would allow first responders to the Dec. 2 attack to be fully reimbursed for costs associated with the shootings and their aftermath.

The law currently caps state reimbursement at 75 percent of such costs after any federal financial assistance. It can be a tough hit for a local government to come up with the other 25 percent, potentially cutting into ongoing public services, Leyva pointed out. Certainly that would be the case for the city of San Bernardino, still working itself out of bankruptcy.

The bill allows the San Bernardino Police Department, the county and its Sheriff's Department, Redlands police and other first-responder agencies to be reimbursed that other 25 percent by the state. The bill now moves to the Assembly, where it should advance quickly.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/opinion/20160601/terrorists-insurance-payout-must-go-to-victims-not-his-mother>

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SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTINGS: Encryption puzzle is far from decoded

By RICHARD K. De ATLEY

2016-06-01 18:31:19



Personal privacy vs. personal safety. It was going to be a Constitutional grudge match -- could the FBI force Apple to develop software to help it hack an iPhone used by one of the terrorists responsible for the Dec. 2 massacre in San Bernardino?

But the high-tech smackdown, which made headlines worldwide, ended in an anticlimactic "Game Over." The feds paid for a hack; Apple's determined decree to spurn the FBI's wishes went untested in court.

Nothing was decided. And no one was satisfied.

Is there a rematch on the horizon? Well, not one that promises a clear resolution.

Draft legislation in Washington to address law enforcement access and encryption appears to have lost momentum and faded.

Scores of similar legal challenges from law agencies await rulings, but none that lay out the sides as succinctly as the landmark FBI case. And the feds' unique, history-tapping strategy -- applying the obscure 1789 All Writs Act -- is unlikely to get a curtain call.

Meanwhile, tech companies are stepping up to forge even stronger encryption -- including end-to-end protection on messaging -- and adding increasingly tougher-to-crack coding to secure devices. The technical landscape changes faster than the debate itself.

We appear to have months ahead, even years or longer, before clarity emerges. If ever.

The case

Was it government overreach that could make vulnerable the privacy of millions of electronic devices worldwide – including those used by the government, as Apple warned?

Or could the order be limited to just the one device, Syed Rizwan Farook's San Bernardino County-issued iPhone 5c, as the government claimed?

Farook, who worked for the county as a health inspector, was killed along with wife Tashfeen Malik in a shootout with police in the hours after the attack at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino.

All but one of those killed were Farook's co-workers, gathered for a holiday luncheon at a rented room at the center. Another 22 people were wounded. The FBI said the couple were inspired by ISIS, but not under its command.

The cards were dealt in the iPhone court case, but both sides left the table before playing them.

After a month of fire-breathing legal briefs and court-of-public opinion plays by both sides, the FBI announced

on March 21, the eve of a hearing in Riverside federal court, that it had found an outside party that could get inside the phone.

The agency later reported the hack was successful, but has not said what was – or was not – on board the device that was recovered with a search warrant issued for Farook's mother's car the day after the shootings.

Legislation Fades

The effort to resolve the debate with new laws appears to have turned to vapor.

The bill co-authored by Senators Richard Burr and Dianne Feinstein, the top Republican and Democrat in the Senate Intelligence Committee, came under fire from the tech community – not just for its purpose, but also a perceived ineptness.

"The bill was awful. Read literally, it would have outlawed computers: Not encryption – computers," attorney Nate Cardozo of the Electronic Frontier Foundation said in a telephone interview.

Meanwhile, tech companies are working to stay a step ahead those who would crack their encryption with more complex protection. Nonetheless, the software safecrackers usually manage to keep pace.

"Multi-factor, including biometrics, is quickly become the norm. Multi-factor being more than one thing being required to authenticate," Cal State San Bernardino cybersecurity professor Tony Coulson said in an email.

Coulson noted that in its latest operating system update, "Apple has now made it so that the passcode needs to be entered more frequently... in conjunction with the Touch ID. This way, if someone was compelled to give up a fingerprint, the phone still needs a password to unlock."

How Far Can Government Go?

"Because the FBI obtained access to the iPhone in question without Apple's help, Apple's legal challenge to the court's order was never resolved by the court," Riana Pfefferkorn, a fellow at The Center for Internet and Society at Stanford Law School, wrote in an email.

One of those issues was whether the government properly used the 1789 All Writs Act to pry open the phone. The act was created by the First Congress to fill gaps so courts could intervene on unresolved matters not touched by lawmakers.

"We still don't know whether the All Writs Act is so broad in scope that the government can use it to force a third party like Apple to, in essence, do the government's work for it," Pfefferkorn wrote.

"It's also left unclear how far the government must go in exhausting other options before third-party assistance can be considered truly 'necessary' under the AWA," she wrote.

Both Cardozo and Pfefferkorn had supported Apple in its court fight.

Is Encryption Governable?

Until the FBI found its unnamed outside help, it had insisted in legal briefs that only Apple's technicians could create a workaround to get into the Farook phone.

Part of the issue, legal experts said, may be the futility of trying to create laws to regulate something as mercurial as encryption.

Cardozo said the outcome may be rules easily defeated by bad actors, while honest citizens are made more vulnerable to identify theft and other crimes that prompted encryption in the first place.

"It would be great if we lived in a world where (encryption bypass) would be only accessible to law enforcement based on a warrant, and used by governments that respect due process and the rule of law," he said.

"But that is not the world we live in, and no amount of legislation will make that so," he said. "We need to talk about how law enforcement and intelligence agencies can do their jobs in a world where there is strong encryption."

He said meta data and network logs, which can reveal from-to-who links, are among the items law enforcement

has access to without encryption.

An alternative solution may be to address the events that suggest agencies are out of their depth when it comes to electronic devices.

"I think it is somewhat artificial to line it up as privacy versus law enforcement," said Loyola Law School professor Laurie Levenson, a former federal prosecutor. "I don't think law enforcement was oblivious to privacy – it's always a difficult question about which outweighs the other."

Along with the FBI having to find a private party that could hack the phone, Levenson also noted there was harm to evidence-gathering when the FBI unsuccessfully tried to get into the phone remotely after it was first recovered.

"The government's technical ability has to catch up with private industry," Levenson said. "Ironically this may lead to the government having more resources than they had in the past," she said.

Contact the writer: rdeatley@pe.com or 951-368-9573

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San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Accused Inland terrorism plotter had ties to 4 men arrested in 2012, court filing says

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

Wednesday, June 1, 2016



A Riverside man accused of conspiring with San Bernardino mass shooting gunman Syed Rizwan Farook to commit other terrorist acts had ties to four Inland Empire jihadists who were arrested in 2012, according to a document filed in federal court.

The complaint, filed by the U.S. Department of Justice on Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Riverside in an attempt to seize \$275,000 in life insurance payments to Farook's mother, indicates Marquez had been affiliated in some way with the four men in 2011, when he and Farook were planning bombings and mass shootings in Riverside County that they never carried out.

"During this period, Marquez had ties to a group of jihadists ('California jihadists') who were arrested in 2012 when they attempted to travel to Afghanistan to join Al Qa'ida," according to the court document.

But an FBI official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Wednesday in an email that the FBI, an agency of the Department of Justice, "thoroughly investigated the alleged connections between Enrique Marquez Jr. and the four individuals arrested for the 2012 terror plot and concluded there were no direct ties to any of the four."

Officials with the FBI and Department of Justice would not elaborate on whether they were drawing a distinction between "ties" and "direct ties."

Pressed further Wednesday for more details, FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said, "the paperwork speaks for itself."

The four men arrested in 2012 and subsequently convicted are: Sohail Omar Kabir, of Pomona; Ralph Deleon, of Ontario; Miguel Alejandro Santana Vidriales, of Upland; and Arifeen David Gojali, of Riverside.

They were accused of entering into a plot that started in 2010 to kill American soldiers overseas after traveling to Afghanistan and linking with al-Qaida.

Kabir and DeLeon were convicted and sentenced in February 2015 to 25 years in federal prison. Gojali and Santana Vidriales entered pleas before trial began and were sentenced to five and 10 years in federal prison, respectively.

Farook, 28, and Malik, 29, of Redlands, fatally shot 14 people and wounded 22 others during a seige at the Inland Regional Center on Dec. 2. The couple died hours later in a shootout with police.

The government is attempting to seize the proceeds from [two life insurance policies](#) Farook took out through his employer, the county of San Bernardino, in 2012 and 2013, one for \$25,000 and another for \$250,000, because the government wants that money to go to the victims of the Dec. 2 mass shooting instead of Farook's mother, the listed beneficiary on the insurance policies.

Farook was a health inspector with the county, and most all the people he and his wife killed or wounded were his colleagues in the county Environmental Health Services Division.

The FBI concluded Farook and Malik were radicalized Muslims who had long been planning a mass-casualty attack. A cache of pipe bombs and bomb-making materials were found in their Redlands apartment during a search. Investigators also learned Marquez bought and provided the couple, through a straw purchase, the two assault rifles used in the massacre, which led to a [Dec. 30 indictment](#) against Marquez.

Around the time Farook took out the first of the two life insurance policies, he and Marquez, according to federal prosecutors, were planning mass shootings and bombings at Riverside City College and on a stretch of the 91 Freeway in Riverside County. The men had been friends and next-door neighbors in Riverside.

Other never-before-disclosed details of the criminal investigation into the San Bernardino mass shooting revealed in Tuesday's court filing indicate that Farook and Marquez were inspired by other terrorist attacks, including the Nov. 5, 2009, mass shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, where Army Major Nidal Hasan fatally shot 13 people and wounded more than 30 others after researching jihad and communicating with an al-Qaida leader.

Farook and Marquez, according to the court document, also were inspired by the 2011 attack in Oslo, Norway, where a man set off bombs in a government center, killing seven people, before fleeing to an island summer camp for young members of the Labor Party, where he killed at least another 80 people.

Staff writer Richard K. De Atley contributed to this report.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20160601/accused-inland-terrorism-plotter-had-ties-to-4-men-arrested-in-2012-court-filing-says>

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Opinion / Editorial

Editorial Just a murder-suicide in a small UCLA office. And so America shrugs



Police leave the scene after a shooting at UCLA on Wednesday that turned out to be a murder-suicide. (Ringo H.W. Chiu/AP)

By **The Times Editorial Board**

JUNE 1, 2016, 1:24 PM

The call came from the UCLA campus just before 10 a.m. – someone had opened fire with a gun. “Active shooter,” and the warning went out for those on campus to shelter in place. Where was it? The Engineering 4 building.

Police arrived in waves, along with firefighters and other emergency responders. The Los Angeles Police Department went on citywide tactical alert, the better to marshal resources, as television showed students being escorted to safety, hands on their heads, by officers in tactical gear.

And then the wait. What had happened? Was there still someone with a gun? Was it still dangerous? Was this going to be another horrific scene of violence, like that at Umpqua Community College in Oregon in October?

But there were no more bullets. No confirmed sightings of a man with a gun still at his deadly work. Something less dramatic, apparently, had occurred, something smaller in scope than the mass shootings we've become accustomed to.

The massive police and emergency response proved unnecessary, but there was no way the LAPD could have known that when the panicked call came in. And this is where we are – the anticipation that a shooting on a college campus was going to turn out to be a mass tragedy, and that a major city's law enforcement response is geared up for that eventuality.

In this case, it was only two dead. Murder-suicide in a small office. And so America shrugs. Just another incident in the daily parade of gun violence that defines contemporary America. And so two families, and two circles of friends, and a community of students and faculty are left to their grief, and their confusion, and maybe a touch more fear than usual at the recognition that violence can and will strike so close to home.

Ultimately, we should be glad this was a tragedy for fewer people than feared when the phrase “campus shooting” first popped up on screens. But that society will just shrug this off is tragic in its own way. That the nation accepts gun violence as commonplace, as a reasonable trade-off for some romanticized view of every gun owner as a soldier against tyranny, is the continuing tragedy.

And so the deaths will mount.

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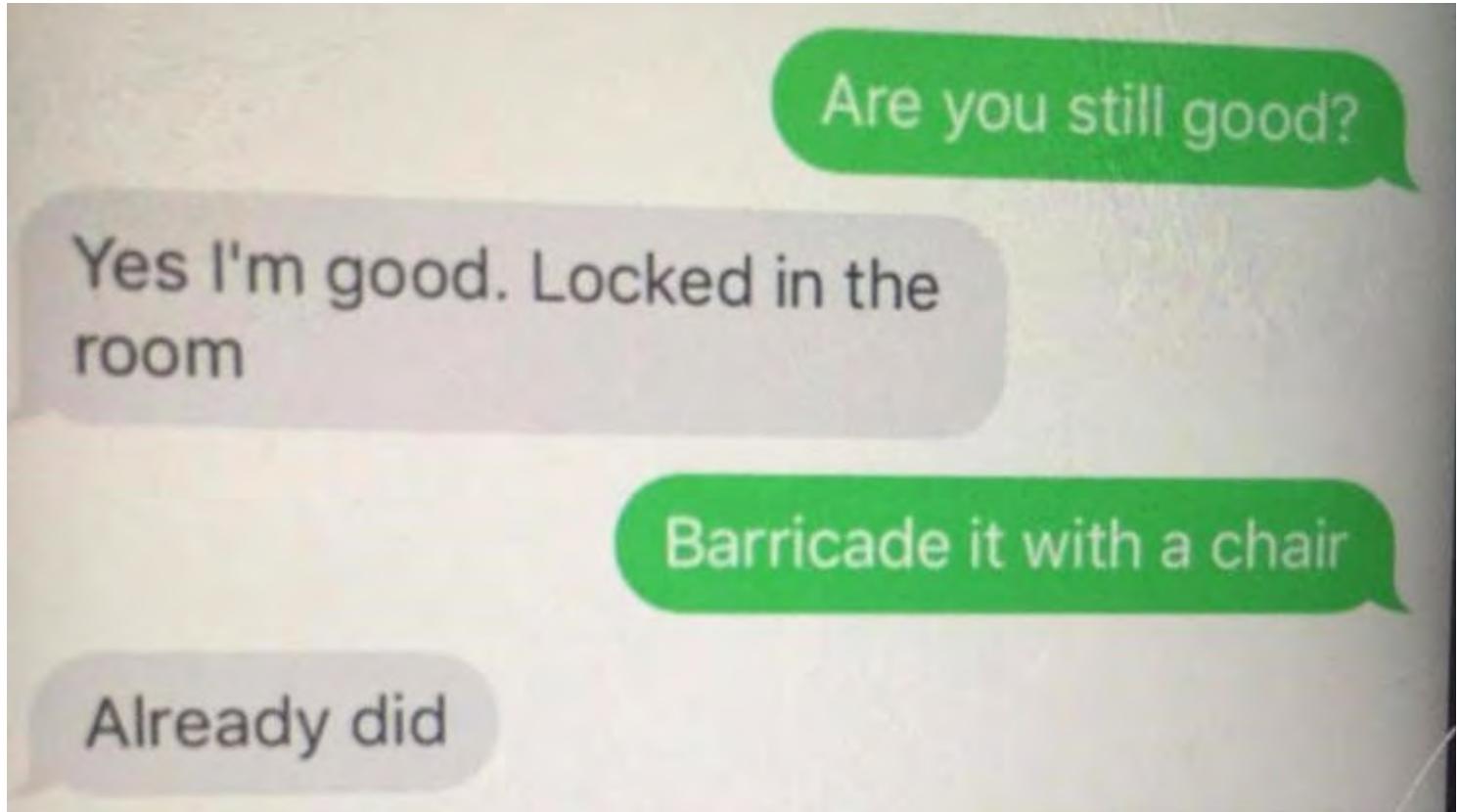
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LOCAL / Education

Anxious parents watch and worry over UCLA shooting



San Bernardino County District 4 Supervisor Curt Hagman exchanged text messages Wednesday with his son Jonathan, a sophomore at UCLA. (Curt Hagman)

By **Joy Resmovits** · Contact Reporter

JUNE 1, 2016, 2:20 PM

Once is too much. Twice is implausible.

That's what television producer Mary Zilba thought Wednesday morning when she heard about the shooting at [UCLA](#).

Zilba was one of the parents of UCLA students who watched in fear on television as their children's school became the scene of yet another shooting on an American college campus. In the early moments, information was hard to come by. A lockdown was ultimately lifted, and officials said two men were

killed in a murder-suicide.

Zilba was sitting in her office in Vancouver, Canada, when a colleague watching CNN said, “Oh, my God, there’s been a shooting at UCLA.”

Zilba immediately called her son Cole Anderson, a junior studying political science at UCLA who had transferred last year from UC Santa Barbara, the site of another outburst of campus violence.

Anderson was safe in his UCLA dormitory room. “He could hear helicopters everywhere, they don’t know what to do,” Zilba said.

Her mind wandered to the thoughts no parent ever wants to contemplate: If there’s a shooter on the loose, what’s stopping him from getting to the dorms? Is my child really safe?

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The feelings weren’t new to Zilba. In 2014, Cole was close to the mayhem that unfolded during Elliot Rodger’s massacre and suicide at UCSB. He called his mother after the gunman killed himself.

“He shot himself in front of my son’s dorm,” she said. The events were so traumatizing that Zilba flew in, got a hotel room near campus and let her son stay there for a week.

Watching the events unfold on television can be surreal for a parent, said Jack Rogers, a National University psychology professor who graduated from UCLA in 1983. His son Matthew is a UCLA sophomore studying dance and psychology. When news of the shooting broke, he texted his son and also asked his daughter — a student in Arizona — to help find him.

For an hour and a half, though, there was no answer. “It was torturous, being 120 miles away in San Diego and watching the events unfold and not being able to do anything,” he said.

Rogers knew his son should be in his dorm. As he awaited an answer, he monitored the news. Finally, his daughter reported that she’d gotten word from Matthew, and that he was safe. In fact, he had slept through the shooting and awoke to the sound of helicopters.

Rogers sits on the alumni scholarship and advising committee, so he’s on campus often. “I like to think of my school as a wonderful, idyllic safe place for people to engage in critical thinking,” he said.

With such a large student body, it was statistically likely that some of the emergency responders and media members who rushed to the scene would have children who were students there. Among them was Irfan Khan, a Los Angeles Times photographer, who worried about his daughter as he drove to the

campus to cover the shooting. She was hiding in a restroom, he later tweeted.

Once he made it to campus, tried to call his daughter, but he got no answer. He tried to find her, he said in an interview, and as he walked through UCLA, parts of it were dead silent. He saw an escape ladder hanging out of a building, and his heart dropped — but he realized no one was inside.

He met a student who helped him find Charles E. Young Library, and ultimately convinced his daughter it was safe to leave the bathroom. “She couldn’t believe I came there,” she said. Afterwards, she took a selfie with her father and said, “My dad came to save me.”

By 12:14 he shared a photo showing she was safe.

Afterward, she took a selfie with her father and said, “My dad came to save me.”

To Curt Hagman, news of the shooting felt all too familiar. Hagman is the District 4 supervisor in San Bernardino County, and was in an San Bernardino Associated Governments meeting Wednesday, just as he was on Dec. 2 when news of the terrorist shooting at the Inland Regional Center broke.

His son Jonathan, a sophomore studying political science at UCLA, texted and told his dad that he was about to leave his dorm room when he was told to go back inside because of the lockdown. “It’s the same kind of reports we got on Dec. 2,” he said. “In the fog of war, no one knows what was going on. I was hoping it wasn’t a terrorist incident.”

Hagman tried to make sense of the news as his son texted him rumors he was hearing. “I’m worried for all the students, and I’m thankful he was in his dorm,” he said. “We’re still vulnerable anywhere. We never thought San Bernardino would be a target for this kind of stuff, and we hoped a college campus wouldn’t be either.”

Joy.Resmovits@LATimes.com

Follow me @Joy_Resmovits.

UPDATES:

2:20 p.m.: This story was updated with comments from San Bernardino County Supervisor Curt Hagman.

4:00 p.m.: This story was updated with comments from L.A. Times photographer Irfan Khan.



By Staff Reports

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June 01, 2016 8:59PM

Lovingood elected SANBAG president

San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood was elected president of San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) on Wednesday. SANBAG is the transportation planning agency for the county. "I want to thank my colleagues for their confidence and support," Lovingood said in a statement. "I look forward to working with cities across San Bernardino County on transportation projects that will benefit tens of thousands of commuters as well as the business community." He underscored regional cooperation as a pathway to strengthening transportation infrastructure. He previously served as vice president of SANBAG and will succeed former president and current Victorville City Councilman Ryan McEachron.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160601/NEWS/160609960>

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June 01, 2016 12:01AM

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Veterans resource fair at fairgrounds today

The Third Annual High Desert Veterans Resource Fair is planned from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the High Desert Event Center, home of the San Bernardino County Fair, in the Alaska USA Building 6, 14800 Seventh St. in Victorville. The resource fair will include numerous veterans service providers and employers conducting on-the-spot job interviews with veterans. The event is hosted by San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood. For more information, call 760-995-8100 or email supervisorlovingood@sbcounty.gov.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160601/NEWS/160609955>

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By Staff Reports

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June 01, 2016 12:01AM

State seeks \$8.8M in parks funding

California State Parks announced recommendations to the National Park Service for \$8.8 million in funding for 17 local park projects under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. Grant funding is made available if the National Park Service approves the recommended projects. LWCF provides funding to cities, counties, eligible districts and state agencies for acquisition and development projects to create outdoor recreational resources. Locally, the recommendations include \$132,600 to the Helendale Community Services District for new playground and athletic fields, pathways, fitness areas, picnic areas and shade structures. For more information on the LWCF, visit www.parks.ca.gov/grants or www.facebook.com/caparksgrants.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160601/NEWS/160609959>

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San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Mother of Barstow man killed by sheriff's deputy files wrongful death lawsuit

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

The mother of a Barstow man fatally shot by a rookie San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy during a confrontation at a motel last fall have filed a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court.

The complaint names the county of San Bernardino and Deputy Kyle Hayden Woods, who had been on the force less than two years when he shot 29-year-old Nathanael Harris Pickett Jr. following a foot pursuit at the El Rancho Motel shortly after 9 p.m. Nov. 19.

As Pickett sat on the sidewalk and began scooting back, away from Woods, Woods shot Pickett in the chest, according to the lawsuit filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Riverside.

After shooting Pickett, Woods reholstered his gun, then he and a civilian who had been riding along with Woods that night and who is identified in the lawsuit as "Doe" began punching and kicking Pickett as he lay on the ground, the lawsuit alleges.

Pickett died shortly thereafter.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Bachman said in an email Wednesday the department has not been served with a lawsuit and therefore declined comment. She said Woods was still on patrol in Barstow, and that citizen volunteers regularly ride with patrol deputies and are advised to follow the lawful commands of the deputies.

The Sheriff's Department said in a news release following the shooting that Woods tried arresting Pickett after Pickett gave the deputy a false name and "became uncooperative." A struggle ensued, and Pickett "struck the deputy numerous times in the face and refused to comply with repeated verbal commands to stop hitting him and move away. The deputy fired his weapon, striking the subject, at which time the assault ceased."

Woods, according to the sheriff's news release, suffered multiple injuries including broken bones.

According to court records, Pickett has a history of resisting arrest,

The lawsuit alleges Pickett was developmentally disabled.

During a May 17 [news conference](#) in Victorville, Pickett's mother, Dominic Archibald, said her son was developmentally disabled, but in the same breath said he had never officially been diagnosed by a doctor with a disability.

Archibald, the plaintiff in the lawsuit, did say during the news conference that her son began manifesting symptoms of mental illness in his early 20s and had seen a psychologist.

Video surveillance footage from the motel where Pickett had been living, provided by attorneys at the May news conference, shows Woods talking to Pickett, then Pickett running from the deputy. Both Pickett and Woods remain off camera for several minutes, then Pickett is seen running down the motel corridor, then tripping and falling, with Woods chasing after him.

Woods, back to the camera, appears to be pointing his gun at Pickett as Pickett scoots back, away from the approaching deputy. A flash is seen on the ceiling above Woods, and Pickett then appears to be lying flat on the ground.

As Woods stands behind Pickett and attempts to detain him, Pickett begins resisting, and Woods begins punching Pickett repeatedly. The civilian then joins in assisting Woods, but it is unclear in the video if the civilian is kicking or punching Pickett, as alleged in the lawsuit.

Victorville attorneys Jim Terrall and Sharon Brunner, who are representing Archibald in the lawsuit, did not respond to requests for comment.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160601/mother-of-barstow-man-killed-by-sheriffs-deputy-files-wrongful-death-lawsuit>

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Mastodons! San Bernardino County Museum's newest exhibit opens June 11

By **Yazmin Alvarez** - June 1, 2016



courtesy photo/san bernardino county museum The San Bernardino County Museum will unveil its newest exhibit, Mastodon! June 11. The exhibit features a mother mastodon, a calf and information on several of the prehistoric elephants that roamed San Bernardino County during the Ice Age.

It's huge. It's hairy. It's millions of years old.

The San Bernardino County Museum is getting ready to unveil its 'largest' exhibit June 11 — Mastodons!

Museum visitors can stroll through the Hall of Geology and Paleontology and step back into the Ice Age with the time's largest mammals and learn all about the prehistoric elephants — mastodons, mammoths, and gomphotheres — that once roamed San Bernardino County, said museum spokeswoman, Jennifer Reynolds. "Several mastodon and prehistoric elephant fossils have been in the San Bernardino County and we're very excited to introduce the mastodon and the fossil exhibit, they go hand in hand. I feel (the exhibit) is really going to give people a good sense of what the Ice Age must have been like in the county."

The new exhibit, at the entrance of the Geology Hall, will feature a full-size mastodon mother and calf along with new information about the prehistoric elephants in the region. The mastodons help round out the Life to Death to Discovery diorama that culminates in a recreated dig to recover mastodon fossils.

"Until you've stood next to a mastodon, you have no idea just how huge these animals were," said Melissa Russo, the museum's director, in a news release. "Once kids get a chance to get up close and personal with a mastodon, we're sure they'll be excited to continue to explore, dream, and discover more about fossils and about our regional natural heritage."

While the exhibit opens to the public June 11, Museum Association members will get a sneak peak of the unveiling June 10. The family-style party includes a barbecue picnic and a screening of *Ice Age*. The event is also open to those who join the association the day of, Reynolds said.

The San Bernardino County Museum is at 2024 Orange Tree Lane in Redlands.

General admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for military personnel and seniors, \$7 for students and \$5 for children 5 to 12. To learn more, call 909-307-2669 or visit the museum online at www.sbcowntymuseum.org.

Yazmin Alvarez

Yazmin Alvarez is the Community News Editor for Rialto Record and Inland Empire Weekly. For news leads, she can be reached at: (909) 381-9898 ext. 207 or via email: iecn.yazmin@gmail.com



REGION: Grant will help agency combat child abuse

By ANNE MARIE WALKER

2016-05-31 17:52:40



Olive Crest, an organization that has spent more than 40 years helping prevent child abuse and assisting at-risk children, has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

The money will fund two programs for the agency, which has a facility in Riverside.

Olive Crest and tribe have a relationship going back 15 years.

"We're aware of the challenges nonprofits face in this region in regards to funding," said Jacob Coin, director of Office of Public Affairs for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. "We're pleased with our relationship with Olive Crest, they're doing very good work and we want to see that work continue."

The Inland Empire Residential Program, known as "The Ranch," will provide residential treatment for adolescents who have been removed from abusive or neglectful homes. The teens will live at a facility in Perris where they will be provided behavior management.

The Transitional Housing Placement Program, or "Project Independence," will train 18- to 21-year-old foster youths for independent living. They will be given assistance in completing high school and encouraged to apply for college, trade school or find work.

Participants will live in apartments throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties near college campus, public transportation and employment opportunities.

Olive Crest also has Project Independence programs in two of its four residential homes in Coachella Valley.

The agency provides services such as child abuse prevention, counseling and mental health treatment, adoption placement and homes for children, teens and young adults.

Tracy Fitzsimmons, executive director of the Riverside/Inland Empire & Desert Communities Region for Olive Crest, hopes to get to the root of the problem for many children.

"My goals for the future are to include increasing private support so that more focus can be placed on preventative measures that will keep children and families out of the system," said Tracy Fitzsimmons, executive director of the Riverside/Inland Empire & Desert Communities Region for Olive Crest.

The agency, which is based in Orange County and has facilities in Riverside, Victorville and the Coachella Valley, is looking for volunteers to act as mentors, as well as assist in fundraising activities and other projects.

Information: 800-550-2445 or olivecrest.org

Contact the writer: community@pe.com

By Paola Baker

[Print Page](#)

June 01, 2016 4:09PM

Cajon Pass blaze quickly contained

CAJON PASS — Firefighters quickly controlled a blaze that erupted near Interstate 15 on Wednesday afternoon, officials said.

Reports of a small brush fire in the Cajon Pass near I-15 and Cleghorn Road were first received just after 3 p.m., authorities said. California Highway Patrol logs indicated smoke and flames were visible from the freeway.

The fire quickly grew to three acres, prompting a multi-agency response. Firefighters from the San Bernardino County Fire Department, Cal Fire San Bernardino, and the San Bernardino National Forest Service responded.

CHP and Caltrans officials shut down the northbound and southbound I-15 onramps and offramps at Cleghorn Road and Kenwood Avenue. Old Cajon Boulevard was also shut down, according to CHP logs.

County Fire firefighter Jon Garber said County Fire officials assisted National Forest Service and Cal Fire officials in combating the blaze. Firefighters were able to get a wet line around the blaze at three acres, Garber said, and it was reported to be extinguished shortly after 3:45 p.m.

"Luckily, firefighters were able to get it under control quickly," Garber said.

County Fire units were canceled and the San Bernardino National Forest Service is currently handling the cleanup. No injuries were reported, Garber said.

The cause of the fire is not yet known. Garber said a fire investigator has been requested.

CHP traffic logs showed the southbound I-15 offramp and onramp were closed at Cleghorn Road as of 5 p.m. Wednesday. Cajon Boulevard at Kenwood Avenue was also closed and the closures were expected to last for approximately an hour, while the offramp and onramp at Kenwood Avenue remained open.

This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.



Firefighters clear the scene of a brush fire that burned through three acres in the Cajon Pass on Wednesday afternoon. The blaze was quickly extinguished.
Monica Solano, Daily Press

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160601/NEWS/160609964>

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By [Shea Johnson](#)

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June 01, 2016 11:36AM

Attorney presses to scrap Colonies corruption case

SAN BERNARDINO — An attorney for Colonies developer Jeff Burum is seeking again to have the sweeping corruption case dismissed, this time saying prosecutors failed to preserve emails that would have backed the narrative that county officials considered a \$102 million settlement reasonable prior to a 2011 indictment.

Specifically, attorney Stephen Larson's motion filed last Friday accuses the state Attorney General's office of losing or destroying emails that would have revealed communication with county counsel and the District Attorney's office proving the defense's case.

The San Bernardino County Grand Jury returned the 29-count indictment in May 2011 alleging Burum paid bribes to former top county officials to secure the settlement. Larson has pressed the issue that the deal being considered justified precludes it from being excessive or procured through corruption as it has been alleged.

"I'll say this. What has been revealed over the course of the last six months is that this entire case was predicated on a fallacy," Larson said. "And that fallacy, namely that the settlement agreement was unreasonable and unjustified, has been fully exposed."

Prosecutors have until June 27 to respond to the claims, which are set to be heard July 15.

Larson's latest filing comes as an earlier motion to dismiss the case was rejected in January and is under review in appellate court. Yet, while the matter under appeal accused prosecutors of failing to inform grand jurors about the county's stance on the settlement, last week's motion takes it a step further.

Larson told the Daily Press that prosecutors were ordered to produce discovery about what they knew regarding the county's position on the settlement and during that process it was learned the Attorney General's office deleted emails after 90 days.

"It's hard to explain how significant that is if you're not in the legal business," Larson said Tuesday, adding that attorney duties require one "not to destroy potential evidence when litigation is anticipated, let alone when litigation is brought."

The District Attorney's office, which is jointly prosecuting the case with the Attorney General's office, has said it can't comment on any matters involving the case.

In 2002, Rancho Cucamonga-based developer Colonies Partners, LP sued the county, accusing it of taking 67 acres of developer land for flood control easements on a 434-acre housing and commercial project in Upland. Four years later, the sides reached a settlement.

The settlement became central to the indictment, with the Grand Jury alleging Burum paid bribes to political action committees controlled by three former county officials in order to seal the deal. Former 1st District Supervisor and county Assessor Bill Postmus pleaded guilty to conspiracy, bribery and misuse of public funds.

The criminal case against Burum, former assistant assessor Jim Erwin, former Supervisor Paul Biane and Mark Kirk, the former chief of staff for former Supervisor Gary Ovitt, remains active. The men have pleaded not guilty.

The second half of 2015 saw a flurry of activity in the case, but Larson says the dismissal of a key conspiracy charge is "probably the most significant" as it consumed the largest portion of the indictment.

Shea Johnson may be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter at @DP_Shea.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160601/NEWS/160609972>

[Print Page](#)

By [Monica Solano](#)[Print Page](#)

June 01, 2016 12:01AM

A hero's honor

PHELAN — Tears filled in his eyes as he walked across the stage.

In shock, the young graduate had just seen, standing before him, the man who saved his life two years earlier.

David Castaneda, 17, of Victorville, was given the honor of receiving his high school diploma Thursday evening from San Bernardino County Fire Department Capt. John Flesher, the firefighter who rescued him from a fatal crash that occurred June 24, 2014.

"I started crying up when I saw John," Castaneda told the Daily Press on Thursday evening. "I was thinking about my friends and what happened during that day as I was walking."

"I thought, since my best friend John couldn't be here tonight, another John was brought into my life to be with me."

The ceremony was held at Serrano High School as David Castaneda was one of the many students graduating from Chaparral High School. As he received his diploma from Flesher, Castaneda's family, friends and peers all stood to cheer him on.

Castaneda was 15 years old at the time of the crash. He required two surgeries after a dump truck loaded with 80,000 pounds of cement allegedly ran a stop sign at the end of the southbound Interstate 15 off-ramp on Highway 138 and slammed into a PT Cruiser. The crash severely injured Castaneda and two of his friends and killed two others, one of whom was his best friend John Cabrera.

As emergency crews worked the scene, Flesher was in charge of the extrication. Flesher told the Daily Press the crews thought they were going to have to amputate David Castaneda legs to get him out.

But Flesher and another firefighter were able to free the young man with both his legs intact after more than three hours of extrication.

"David is a really good friend of mine," Flesher said. "He has embraced the accident and what happened to him and we have become pretty close since then."

"It's pretty amazing seeing everything from the accident to his recovery in this young man's life and what he had to endure and that he was able to graduate with straight As."

Lisa Castaneda, mother of David Castaneda, said she's thankful for all the support her son has received over the last few years from both family and friends. If it wasn't for Flesher saving both her son's life and his legs, "David wouldn't be walking here today receiving his diploma," she said.

"I don't know what to say — I'm speechless," Lisa Castaneda said. "David worked really hard to get where he's at today and he did this, not only for himself, but for his friend John."

After the ceremony, David Castaneda was nearly rendered speechless himself as he thanked Flesher for coming out to his graduation ceremony and the two embraced in a hug.

"Ever since the accident and saving me, I wanted to keep John around in my life and make sure I felt safe and know he'll be there to take care of me," David Castaneda said.

Raushel Snedeker, a close family friend whose daughters were sisters of John Cabrera, said she was so proud to see David Castaneda graduate and was thankful that Flesher was there to deliver the diploma.

"Raushel approached me a while back and invited me to the graduation ceremony and said I needed to be there to hand out his diploma and she had already made the arrangements for it," Flesher said. "I feel really honored having been able to do this. I saw he was going to start crying and so was I after seeing that big smile on his face."

Monica Solano can be reached at MSolano@VVDailyPress.com or at 760-951-6231. Follow her on Twitter @DP_MonicaInes.



San Bernardino County Fire Captain John Flesher hugs Chaparral High School graduate David Castaneda during the school's commencement ceremony on Wednesday in Phelan. Flesher helped save Castaneda's life after a crash on Highway 138 and Interstate 15 two years ago and surprised Castaneda at the graduation ceremony. Jose Huerta, Daily Press

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

City and developers hope to resurrect stalled entertainment, residential area in Ontario

By Neil Nisperos, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Wednesday, June 1, 2016



ONTARIO >> Developers are in preliminary discussions to re-stoke urban development on vacant land west of the [Piemonte at Ontario Center](#) shopping center.

The area — north of Citizens Business Bank Arena and south of Fourth Street in Ontario — had been planned as a 24-hour hub of activity filled with residents who would be drawn to the restaurant and bar scene as well as sports and entertainment opportunities from nearby [Citizens Business Bank Arena](#).

Further development in the area is expected to help bolster further economic activity surrounding exiting homes, retailers and the arena, said John Andrews, economic development director for the city of Ontario.

“You’ve got Ontario Mills nearby. You’ve got a bulk of class A office spaces in this area. It’s not far from the airport and many of the hotels. This would be very much a draw in the region, not only for places to live, but a mixed-use environment, attractive for people to live and work or visit for that matter.”

Long-standing city plans for the 44 acres of undeveloped land called for a mix of homes and shops, restaurants and office space, all within walking distance.

“The development at Piemonte will create more entertainment and recreational opportunities for our residents and visitors with easy, pedestrian friendly access to the Citizen’s Business Bank Arena as another walkable community in Ontario,” said Mayor pro Tem Debra Dorst-Porada.

Completion of the planned development, according to Ontario Councilman Alan Wapner in a statement, would create “a linkage to other community assets, such as the [Ontario Convention Center](#) and Citizens Business Bank Arena to develop an entertainment hub in support of events in those facilities.”

Infrastructure, such as streets and street lamps, had been put in place in the last decade, but the economic downturn of the late 2000s halted further development.

“It’s fair to say the economic downtown had an impact on implementing that project, and so we’re now at a very promising stage in the (development) discussions, I would say,” said John Andrews, economic development director for the city of Ontario.

The city has been in talks with the developers, with a potential for an announcement in the coming months, officials said. Development-related applications with the city have not yet been filed so far,

Andrews said. Officials could not yet announce the names of the developers, with discussions ongoing.

“These are all very preliminary discussions at this point and those discussions are all focused on implementing the mayor and City Council’s vision for that area, which is a mix of housing, entertainment and commercial restaurant uses that would compliment the arena,” Andrews said.

The exact amount and mix of housing units and retail has yet to be determined, Andrews said.

“We’re discussing all of those things,” Andrews said. “The branding of the project and the kind of the mixed use. All of those things are being discussed.”

Bringing the vision for the area to reality would be of great benefit to the surrounding economy, said Brad Umanksy, local real estate expert and president of the Rancho Cucamonga-based real estate brokerage firm Progressive Real Estate Partners.

“I think that the addition of more multifamily (housing) and the (recently approved) [development of the Empire Lakes project](#), this should be an opportunity for some additional retail along the Fourth Street corridor,” Umansky said. “Any development in my opinion, if it’s occupied by users, is positive development. We need residents to serve retail. Offices to create jobs. This will be good when it’s developed.”

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20160601/city-and-developers-hope-to-resurrect-stalled-entertainment-residential-area-in-ontario>

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ONTARIO: Citizens Business Bank Arena under new management

BY NEIL NISPEROS

2016-06-01 20:34:54



Management of the Citizens Business Bank Arena is switching from AEG Facilities to Ontario Convention Center operator SMG, officials announced Wednesday.

AEG, which has operated the arena since it opened in 2008, and the city of Ontario agreed to part ways, effective July 1, AEG spokesman Michael Roth said in a statement.

AEG also owns the Ontario Reign hockey team. Roth said it's letting go of managing the facility to focus on the American Hockey League team.

"Since the opening of the Citizens (Business) Bank Arena in 2008, we have had a valuable and mutually beneficial partnership with the city," Roth said. "AEG was instrumental in the westward movement of the American Hockey League and our focus going forward is on the Reign and their continued success. As the defending Calder Cup champions, their first season has been a tremendous success."

Councilman Alan D. Wapner said through a statement it was always the City Council's vision to have one source managing city-owned facilities.

"This action will provide a synergy to enhance both venues with one team to provide strategic marketing, staffing, sales and a joint calendar," Wapner said.

"SMG has done a tremendous job for the city of Ontario operating the Ontario Convention Center, increasing the number of events and increasing room nights," Councilman Jim W. Bowman said in a statement. "We have confidence in the leadership team and together we look forward to continuing to make Citizens Business Bank Arena the premier entertainment destination for the region."

AEG officials say they want the Reign to stay in Ontario, but it's unclear whether the city or the new management would allow it.

"We at AEG plan for the Ontario Reign to be the home team for a long time," Roth said. "We feel the fan base is fantastic and has showed great support for our first AHL season, and hopefully, I'm sure, we'll help propel the team as we run for a second Calder Cup."

The arena, according to Michael Krouse, regional vice president of West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania-based SMG, will continue to provide a destination for large events with significant economic impact for the area.

"We are excited to get underway as the new management team of Citizens Business Bank Arena and look forward to providing quality entertainment to visitors and our local community," Krouse said in a statement.

AEG's Roth acknowledged there was "some time still left on the contract." Earlier published reports said the contract was set to expire in 2018.

"It was determined it was in the mutual best interest to take action now," Roth said. "When we entered into the agreement, it was our primary goal to put Ontario on the map as a great sports and entertainment marketplace,

and that was illustrated by our continued investment in the Reign and the number of entertainment events that we have brought to the building. We feel we have set a great foundation for this to continue."

AEG employs 30 full-timers at the arena and 150 to 200 part-time employees, according to AEG.

A WARN notice from the state Economic Development Agency from May 19, lists the future termination of 280 jobs.

Employees are terminated whenever AEG undergoes an arena management departure, Roth said.

"But they will have an opportunity to work with new management and company, whoever that is going to be," Roth said. "In the coming weeks, we will also be working with employees that might be impacted by the change to see if there are other opportunities within AEG."

Brad Umanksy, local real estate expert and president of the Rancho Cucamonga-based real estate brokerage firm Progressive Real Estate Partners, views the arena as an asset with a bright future.

"I love being able to go to venue and be home in 15 minutes, rather than half an hour," Umansky said. "I think it's provided an opportunity for businesses and residents to have someplace else to entertain and it's helped the restaurant industry around the arena because a lot of people will stop and have dinner before going to an event."

Umansky doesn't know what sparked the change in management, but generally, contracts are terminated "because people are disappointed in the performance of the other party," he said.

"I think they've done a great job with events," Umansky said. "I think it would be great to have more events catered to an adult audience."

Ontario's relationship with SMG has not been without some hiccups.

Four top SMG Ontario Convention Center officials, including its top executive, were fired in 2012 following a lengthy audit over alleged procedural violations.

The audit revealed a series of violations of expected business conduct, policy and procedures, said Bob McClintock, the senior vice president of SMG, which operates the Convention Center.

"We take very seriously our responsibility, and we hold our employees to the highest standard. We were very concerned and responded," McClintock said at the time.

The \$150 million arena opened Oct. 24 2008.

Since then, the venue has hosted Elton John, the Eagles, Metallica, Bob Dylan and Lakers exhibition games. It seats about 11,000 at full capacity.

BUSINESS

Most new jobs in L.A. County will be low-paying, report warns



Salad makers prepare lunch at Tender Greens in Santa Monica. Strong job growth among food servers is expected through 2020. (Los Angeles Times)

By **Natalie Kitroeff**

JUNE 1, 2016, 1:09 PM

Hundreds of thousands of jobs will be created in L.A. County over the next four years, most of them low-paying, according to a report released Wednesday by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

Most of the jobs added in the county by 2020 will pay below the median wage, the group said.

Office administration and food services will add the most positions to their ranks through 2020, combining for a total of about 93,000 new jobs, according to projections by the LAEDC, a nonprofit aimed at promoting business expansion in the region.

Those jobs do not require more than a high school diploma, and pay less than the state median

household income. The county will gain only about 19,000 jobs in engineering, and manufacturing and machine operation, during the same period.

"We would like to see better job growth in high-paying, high-skilled jobs in order to provide career pathways for our residents," said Christine Cooper, an economist at LAEDC who co-wrote the report.

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The report estimates that the county will add 346,000 jobs from 2015 to 2020, for an average growth rate of 1.5% a year. That projection would require the Los Angeles County economy to continue to grow almost as fast as it has in its recovery from the Great Recession.

A total of 469,200 jobs have been added in the county since the rebound began in February 2010.

Cooper said she thought employment could keep expanding that quickly because workers who gave up their search for jobs would start looking again, and the county's population overall will continue to rise.

"There is a lot of slack, there are a lot of people on the sidelines," Cooper said.

Los Angeles County may face a brain drain if it can't figure out how to create more lucrative and advanced jobs.

A quarter of people aged 25 to 34 living in the county in 2014 had a bachelor's degree, according to the LAEDC. That makes those young workers more educated than older residents. But a weak job market for their skills may prompt them to go elsewhere.

"We graduate the best and the brightest here and they will go to the best opportunity that's available to them. We have lost many of them to Silicon Valley," Cooper said.

But job markets may not look much different in other parts of the country.

"This is not a story about L.A. [County] being horrible and the rest of the country being wonderful; we are just a microcosm of what's going on nationally," said Alec Levenson, an economist at USC.

Average wages across the country have only inched forward every year for the last three decades, according to a 2015 report by President Obama's Council of Economic Advisors. "This is the latest chapter in a continuing story about the hollowing out of the middle class," Levenson said.

Part of the reason Los Angeles is producing lower-paying jobs may be that the county has a large immigrant population seeking blue-collar gigs, which disappeared during the great recession and have not come back in full force.

"It's been a long, slow recovery, and part of the gain in the low end is because that's where the losses were, it's part of the cyclical economy," said Chris Thornberg, founding partner of Beacon Economics, an economics consulting firm based in Los Angeles.

In any case, economists say many college graduates coming out of Los Angeles were always going to move elsewhere. The ones that stay will be snapped up by companies eager for high-skilled people.

"Most companies will tell you that the problem they have isn't that they can't find workers, it's that they can't find workers with the skills they need," said Thornberg.

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Natalie.Kitroeff@latimes.com

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UPDATES:

12:38 p.m.: This article has been updated with additional comment and analysis.

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San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Immigrant children's asylum approvals vary by US region

By Amy Taxin, *The Associated Press*

Wednesday, June 1, 2016



For unaccompanied immigrant children seeking asylum in the U.S., where they apply seems to make a world of difference.

Youngsters whose applications are handled by the U.S. government's regional offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles are far more likely to win approval from asylum officers than those applying in Chicago or Houston, according to data obtained by The Associated Press under a Freedom of Information Act request.

The figures offer a snapshot of how the government is handling the huge surge over the past two years in the number of Central American children arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border unaccompanied by adults. Tens of thousands of youngsters — many of them fleeing gang violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras — have overflowed U.S. shelters and further clogged the nation's overwhelmed immigration courts.

Under federal law, these children can apply to remain in the country in a process that involves an interview with an asylum officer from one of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' eight regional offices. To win their cases, they must show that they have been persecuted or are in danger of persecution.

As of January, asylum officers had rendered decisions in the cases of nearly 5,800 such children who arrived since May 2014, according to the figures obtained by the AP.

Overall, 37 percent were granted asylum, but the rate varied dramatically from 86 percent at the San Francisco office, which handles applications for a swath of the Pacific Northwest, to 15 percent in Chicago, which covers 15 states from Ohio to Idaho.

Los Angeles, which covers parts of California and Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii, granted asylum in 53 percent of its cases, while only 16 percent were approved by Houston, which handles Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and other states. The asylum offices in New York; Miami; Newark, New Jersey; and Arlington, Virginia, had approval rates in the 20s and 30s.

Immigration lawyers said they expected some differences among regional offices, given that some parts of the country are more sympathetic toward immigrants. But they said there shouldn't be such large disparities.

"The quality of justice should not be like a crapshoot. It shouldn't be a lottery," said Karen Musalo, director of the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies at the University of California, Hastings College of

the Law. "It is not just disappointing — it has life-or-death consequences for these children."

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services had no explanation for the disparities. Asylum claims are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and all children's applications get an additional review by a supervisory officer, spokeswoman Claire Nicholson said.

Children who are turned down get a second chance to plead their cases before an immigration judge. If they fail at that stage, they can be deported. Immigration lawyers said most of those children are still awaiting decisions on their applications because it can take months or years for their cases to be heard in court. But previous studies show the courts also vary widely in how often they approve asylum.

Immigration lawyers and activists offered a variety of possible reasons for the regional differences.

Asylum officers are expected to make their decisions in line with federal court rulings on immigration, and the appeals courts on the West Coast are more liberal. Also, California has funded immigration attorneys for children since the surge, enabling these youngsters to make a stronger case for asylum, activists said. Office culture and interviewing techniques also could play a role.

"For us, it is a puzzle, and we do find it baffling," said Lisa Koop of the National Immigrant Justice Center in Chicago. "Whether it is the front-line asylum officer or their supervisors or someone higher up at the Chicago asylum office is unclear to us."

Immigration lawyers in liberal San Francisco said asylum officers there take their time and use child-friendly language during interviews to draw details out of traumatized youngsters who often are reluctant to share their pasts with strangers. Immigration attorney Pablo Lastra said these officers seem to ask questions to get at why kids should be granted asylum, not why they shouldn't.

One teen from Honduras said he was given a squishy ball to squeeze if he felt stressed during his interview in San Francisco. The officer told him to breathe deeply and take his time answering questions about how gangs came after him and his brother when their mother, a candy store owner, could no longer afford rising extortion payments, he said. While the teen was granted asylum, he asked that his name not be used for fear his relatives in Honduras could face gang retaliation.

Where unaccompanied children apply for asylum is dictated by where they live, and most of them have little or no control over that. They are placed by the U.S. government with relatives already living in this country.

"If this person has to choose between a family member in Texas and a family member in the Bay Area, we certainly would be pushing them to the Bay Area," said Manoj Govindaiah, managing attorney at RAICES, a nonprofit organization San Antonio.

In addition to asylum, many of the youngsters coming across the border have sought to stay in the country under a U.S. government program for abused and abandoned children. Since the border surge, more than 15,000 have applied for this program, and most have been approved, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services statistics.

The data obtained by the AP shows that more than 10,000 unaccompanied children who arrived in the U.S. since May 2014 have applied for asylum. More than 90 percent were Central American.

At the regional offices, girls were more likely to win their cases. As of January, asylum officers approved 43 percent of girls' and 33 percent of boys' applications.

Ann Naffier, an immigration attorney at Justice for Our Neighbors in Des Moines, Iowa, said she was surprised by the regional disparity and to see similar asylum cases could have such dramatically different results.

"It is not unfair to the kids in California, it's just unfair to our kids," she said.

Iowa gardener Alejandro Lopez — the father of one of Naffier's clients — said he knew it would be an uphill battle for his son, Jonathan, to win asylum after coming to the U.S. in 2014.

The teen took a 2½-hour trip to Omaha, Nebraska, for an interview with an asylum officer who reports to the Chicago office. A nervous Lopez answered questions for about an hour, relating how Salvadoran gang members threatened to kill him and riddled his motorbike with bullets.

Lopez, now 18, lost his bid and will make a final plea before a judge in February.

"The lawyer said it's really hard for us to win," his father said. "The only solution might be later on if you fall in love and find a wife who is American. He's still young, but that might be the only solution."

In Southern California, Jhonathan Rivas tells a different story. He said he was nervous heading to the suburban Los Angeles office for his interview, but the officer seemed relaxed as she asked him open-ended questions through an interpreter.

Over 90 minutes, Rivas recounted how gang members harassed him on his way home from church in El Salvador, pressed him to join the gang and killed his cousin and uncle. Two weeks after the interview, Rivas learned he can remain in the U.S.

"Thank God everything worked out. It made me happy I don't have to be afraid to go back to my country," said the 19-year-old, who plans to join the Army and become an airplane mechanic.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20160601/immigrant-childrens-asylum-approvals-vary-by-us-region>

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DRONES: Life-saving liftoff for Riverside County Sheriff's Department

By BRIAN ROKOS

2016-06-01 14:41:03



Todd Colten gently pushed his right arm forward, and with that movement, the first test of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's search-and-rescue drone was off the ground.

The 4-pound airplane, black with orange trim on the wings and an orange underbelly, quickly gained altitude after leaving Colten's hand and circled a programmed route above a 400-acre agricultural field a few hundred yards west of the Salton Sea near Thermal on Wednesday morning, June 1.

"When we train, we say it's like throwing darts in a bar," said Colten, chief aerospace engineer for Minneapolis-based Sentera, which supplied two Phoenix M2 unmanned aerial vehicles for the one-year evaluation period at a cost of \$1. "From the moment you throw it, it's flying."

Sheriff's officials hope the training and testing are concluded much faster -- more like three months. They estimate they went on more search-and-rescue missions in 2015 than the 170 in 2014.

"We are going to save lives with this technology," said Sharon Ollenburger, president of Desert Sheriff's Search and Rescue in Palm Desert, who has been tracking lost souls for 34 years in Minnesota and Riverside County's mountains and deserts. "Every time you think somebody can't get lost there, they do get lost."

Chief Deputy Kevin Vest, who oversees the department's search and rescue teams, said the department hopes the drones will complement the helicopters in the sky and the searchers on the ground. The propeller-driven drones can be equipped with a video camera or infrared sensor that detects heat, fly above areas too dangerous to be accessed on foot and be deployed when a helicopter is not available.

The Phoenix is constructed of a hard Nerf-type foam, similar to what's found in vehicle head rests, and a plastic shell, Colten said.

About a dozen sheriff's officials, rescue workers and Sentera employees watched Wednesday as the drone orbited from 200 to 400 feet high, beneath a crescent moon in a cloudless sky.

Three key questions must be answered before the department spends up to \$40,000 each on the drones, Vest said: Does the drone work? Will it help locate people faster? And will it be more cost-effective than helicopters and searchers?

As training continues at the site, deputies and volunteers watching a video monitor will learn to spot objects on the ground and direct the drone using a keyboard, laptop computer and the click of a mouse. The pilots control the drone through sort of a Wi-Fi system, Colten said. The propeller and camera are powered by a battery. The camera can be rotated with a joystick.

The drones have tail numbers just like regular aircraft, and operators must follow Federal Aviation Administration rules. Among them, the drones can fly no higher than 400 feet off the ground, and the operator must keep them within his sight.

Vest reiterated Wednesday what sheriff's officials have said before: The drones will not be used to spy on residents. For one, they are not capable of hovering like helicopter-style drones. Secondly, Vest said, the department already has aircraft that hover -- helicopters.

The police departments in the cities of San Bernardino, Murrieta and Fontana are the other Inland agencies testing or using drones.

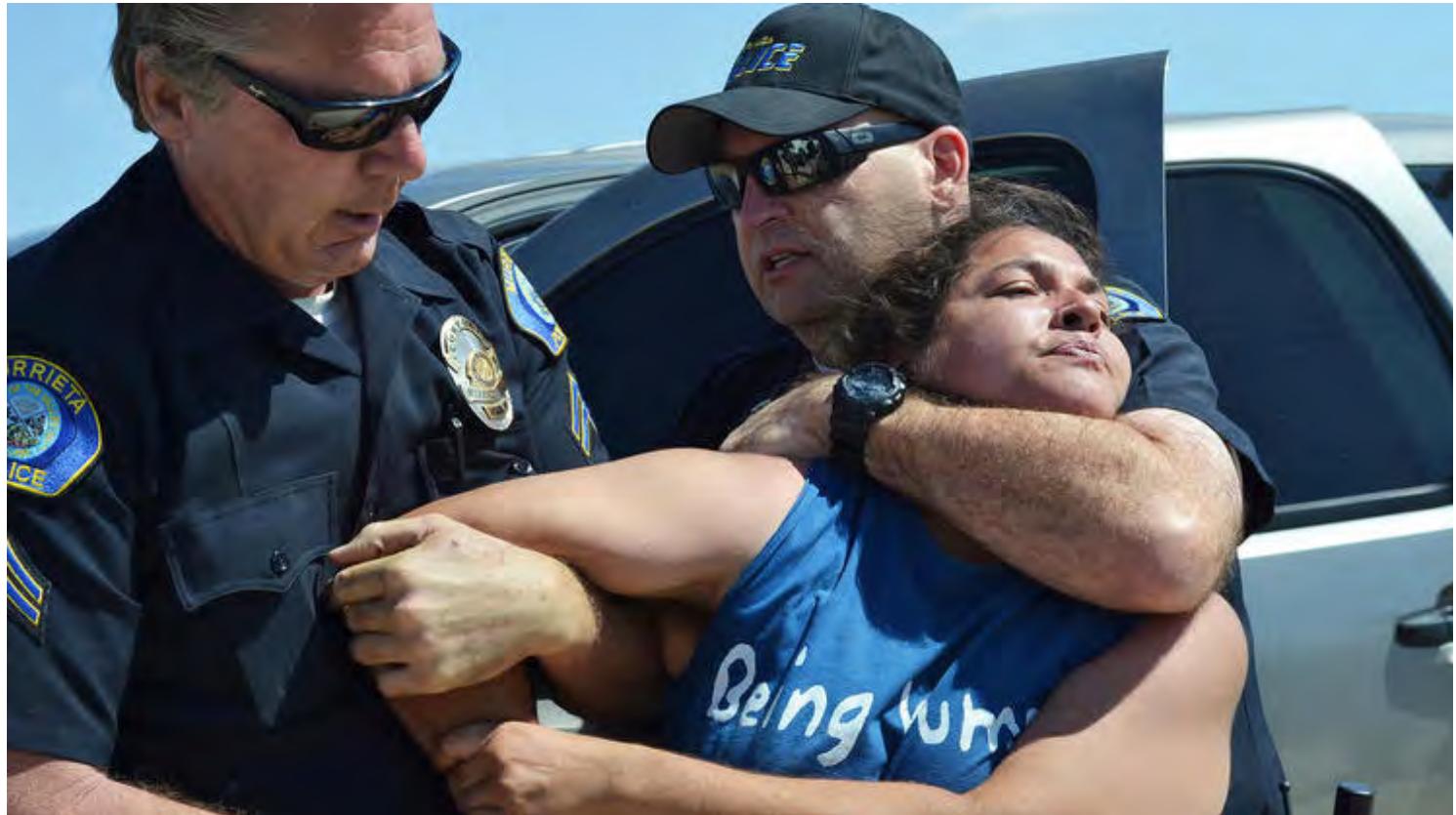
As Wednesday's final test flight ended, the Phoenix landed on its belly in a cloud of dust. Colten detached the wings and folded the propeller before putting the drone in a carrying case. The other participants folded up their canopies and towed away their trailers down a road past workers picking crops.

They'll be back.

"This is going to be an incredible asset for us," Ollenburger predicted.

Opinion / Op-Ed

Op-Ed Does the public have a right to know a cop's history?



Murrieta Police handcuff and detain a protester after an altercation in July of 2014. (Los Angeles Times)

By **Conor Friedersdorf**

JUNE 2, 2016, 5:00 AM

If a police officer pulls you over for a burned out taillight, he can quickly learn your name, home address, place of birth, sex and eye color; every minor traffic infraction on your record; your criminal history at the local, state and federal levels; whether you're on probation or parole; and whether there are any warrants out for your arrest.

With a bit more effort, he can feed your vehicle information into a license plate reader database to generate a partial list of places you've driven around town. If he merely suspects you in a robbery or a rape or a murder, he can announce that to the media. If he arrests you for drunk driving or buying illegal narcotics or soliciting a prostitute, he can send your name and photo to the newspaper even before your trial. If it turns out that you're not guilty, law enforcement officials are not compelled to correct the record.

But if you're pulled over by a police officer who treats you rudely, gives you a citation without cause, makes a crude remark to your spouse or needlessly pats you down in a way that you find invasive, it is exceedingly difficult in California to obtain information on that cop's professional history – much harder than in Texas, Kentucky and many other states, according to civil liberties advocates who believe the public has a right to know when a public servant engages in racial profiling, or sexual misconduct, or even kills in the line of duty.

That's right: If a police officer kills you, there's no guarantee that your next of kin will be able to determine if that same cop has killed someone — or five someones — in the line of duty before. In fact, police departments are currently banned from releasing information related to police discipline even if a citizen specifically seeks it through a public records request. Barring unusual leaks or unusually aggressive investigative journalism, cops who've repeatedly shown that they're bad at their jobs can effectively conceal their records.

There are state legislators who find that unacceptable. Senators Mark Leno of San Francisco, Holly Mitchell of Los Angeles and John Moorlach of Costa Mesa, along with Assembly member Shirley Weber of San Diego, have sponsored a bill that would give the public a right to know about officer-involved shootings and confirmed cases of serious misconduct – that is to say, cases where police departments concluded that cops betrayed the public trust.

But powerful law enforcement unions staunchly oppose opening personnel files to records requests.

“

There is no evidence suggesting that transparency guidelines in other states expose cops to extra danger.

And right before Memorial Day weekend, the law-enforcement transparency bill died without so much as a vote of the full legislature, meaning the public cannot hold their representatives accountable for their positions.

“This was not union thuggery in the legislature,” Mike Durant, president of the Peace Officers Research Assn. of California, told the Wall Street Journal. “This was many different law-enforcement organizations sitting down with the senators and talking about our concerns.”

But the ACLU characterized those concerns as maintaining a "blue wall of silence."

“Last year, 211 people were killed by police in California – more than in any other state,” the civil liberties

organization declared, “yet state law will continue to shield from public view the full findings of investigations into each and every one of these and all future killings.”

Assembly Bill 1680 died too. That proposed law would have helped local police departments to buy body cameras, a technology that protects Californians from bad cops and good cops from prosecution when they have to make difficult decisions.

Meanwhile, Assemblyman Miguel Santiago of Los Angeles is pushing to erect yet another obstacle to public disclosures – a bill that would require at least three days’ notice before any audio or video recorded by a police officer, of a police officer, is released on the Internet. Evidently, his concern for privacy does not extend beyond people in uniform. Law enforcement is not required to provide any notice to California residents before releasing video footage in which they appear.

All this is exactly backward.

The typical Californian has precious little power over anyone, whereas the typical California police officer is armed with a gun and the discretion to use lethal force on behalf of the state. There is no profession where it is more important to identify incompetence, no profession where bad apples can so easily deprive innocents of liberty or even life.

There’s no denying that cops have a vital and dangerous job. But narrow exemptions already exist to shelter police officers who have specific reason to believe the release of video footage could harm their personal safety. And there is no evidence suggesting that transparency guidelines in other states expose cops to extra danger.

The legislature is failing the public on this matter. If it continues to put the agenda of a public employee union above its obligation to keep law enforcement accountable, the public ought to settle this matter at the ballot box, where a proposal to force transparency around police misconduct would likely be popular with voters.

Conor Friedersdorf is a contributing writer to Opinion, a staff writer at the Atlantic and founding editor of the Best of Journalism, a newsletter that curates exceptional nonfiction.

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